

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for identifying a prescription order in a pharmacy including the following steps:

5 receiving the prescription order;

tagging the prescription order with a wireless tag that travels with the prescription order thorough the pharmacy, said tag having a worker signaling device thereon; and,

activating the worker signaling device to alert a pharmacy worker.

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2. The method for identifying a prescription order in a pharmacy of claim 1, wherein said tagging the prescription order with a wireless tag step includes the tag having a plurality of worker signaling devices thereon, each device being activated to alert a pharmacy worker to a different status of the prescription order.

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3. The method for identifying a prescription order in a pharmacy of claim 1, wherein said worker signaling device is a transducer on the tag.

20 4. The method for identifying a prescription order in a pharmacy of claim 3, wherein said transducer is a light.

5. The method for identifying a prescription order in a pharmacy of claim 3, wherein said transducer is an audio speaker.

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6. The method for identifying a prescription order in a pharmacy of claim 3, further including a plurality of transducers, and wherein each transducer of the plurality of transducers is independently operable to denote a different status of the prescription order.

7. The method for identifying a prescription order in a pharmacy of claim 6, wherein said plurality of transducers includes lights and at least one audio-speaker.

8. The method for identifying a prescription order in a pharmacy of claim 6, wherein said plurality of transducers includes a plurality of lights, each light having a different color.

9. The method for identifying a prescription order in a pharmacy of claim 1, wherein said activating the worker signaling device step includes wirelessly transmitting a command signal from a transmitter operably secured to a computer system to a receiver on the tag.

10. The method for identifying a prescription order in a pharmacy of claim 1, wherein said activating the worker signaling device step includes wirelessly transmitting a command signal from a tag reader operably secured to a computer system to a receiver on the tag, and further including the step of:

automatically tracking said tag in the pharmacy based on the proximity of the tag transceiver to the tag reader.

20 11. The method for identifying a prescription order in a pharmacy of claim 10, wherein said tag is an RFID tag with a transducer thereon.

12. The method for identifying a prescription order in a pharmacy of claim 10, wherein further including the step of:

25 displaying the location of the tag on a computer display of the computer system.

13. The method for identifying a prescription order in a pharmacy of claim 1, further including the step of:

timing an event related to filling the prescription order to track an order status; and,

wherein said activating the worker signaling device to alert a worker step includes activating the worker signaling device in response to a predefined criteria related to the order status.

14. The method for identifying a prescription order in a pharmacy of claim 13, wherein said timing an event related to filling the prescription order step includes a timer internal to the tag.

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15. The method for identifying a prescription order in a pharmacy of claim 13, wherein said timing an event related to filling the prescription order step includes a timing element in a computer system that is wirelessly connected to the tag.

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16. The method for identifying a prescription order in a pharmacy of claim 1, wherein said activating the worker signaling device to alert a pharmacy worker step is initiated by a pharmacy worker using a computer system wirelessly connected to the tag.

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17. The method for identifying a prescription order in a pharmacy of claim 1, wherein said activating the worker signaling device to alert a pharmacy worker step is automatically initiated by a computer system wirelessly connected to the tag in response to a predefined criteria.

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18. A prescription order identification system for use in a retail pharmacy including:

a tag operably secured to a prescription order, said tag having a worker signaling device thereon;

a timing element for tracking an event related to filling said prescription order in the retail pharmacy to define an order status; and,

a controller for activating said worker signaling device in response to a predefined criteria related to said order status.

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19. The prescription order identification system for use in a retail pharmacy of claim 18, wherein said worker signaling device is a transducer operably secured to said tag.

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20. The prescription order identification system of claim 19, further including a plurality of said transducers, and said controller independently activates each transducer of said plurality of transducers in response to different said predefined criteria.

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